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AUTHOR	Snyder, Howard N.
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ABSTRACT

This bulletin examines the national and state juvenile arrest rate in 2000 using data reported annually by local law enforcement agencies nationwide to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program. Results indicate that the murder rate in 2000 was the lowest since 1965; juvenile arrests for violence in 2000 were the lowest since 1988; few juveniles were arrested for violent crimes; juvenile arrests for property crimes in 2000 were the lowest in at least 3 decades; most arrested juveniles were referred to court; in 2000, 28 percent of juvenile arrests were arrests of females; females were a larger proportion of juvenile arrests in early teens; juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities; and the juvenile contribution to crime has declined. (SM)

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JUVENILE ARRESTS 2000
JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

Howard N. Snyder

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

November 2002

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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

J. Robert Flores, Administrator

November 2002

JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

Juvenile Arrests 2000

Howard N. Snyder

In 2000, law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated 2.4 million arrests of persons under age 18.* According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), juveniles accounted for 17% of all arrests and 16% of all violent crime arrests in 2000. The substantial growth in the number of juvenile violent crime arrests that began in the late 1980s peaked in 1994. In 2000, for the sixth consecutive year, the rate of juvenile arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses—murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—declined. Specifically, between 1994 and 2000, the juvenile arrest rate for Violent Crime Index offenses fell 41%. As a result, the juvenile violent crime arrest rate in 2000 was the lowest since 1985. The juvenile murder arrest rate fell 74% from its peak in 1993 to 2000, when it reached its lowest level since at least the 1960s.

These findings are derived from data reported annually by local law enforcement agencies across the country to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Based on these data, the FBI prepares its annual *Crime in the United States* report, which summarizes crimes known to the police and arrests made during the reporting calendar year. This information is used to characterize the extent and nature of juvenile crime that comes to the attention of the justice system. Other recent findings from the UCR Program include the following:

- Of the nearly 1,600 juveniles murdered in 2000, 38% were under 5 years of age, 68% were male, 52% were white, and 52% were killed with a firearm.
- Juveniles were involved in 9% of murder arrests, 14% of aggravated assault arrests, 33% of burglary arrests, 25% of robbery arrests, and 24% of weapons arrests in 2000.
- Juvenile murder arrests increased substantially between 1987 and 1993. In the peak year of 1993, there were about 3,800 juvenile arrests for murder. Between 1993 and 2000, juvenile arrests for murder declined, with the number of arrests in 2000 (1,200) less than one-third that in 1993.
- Juvenile arrest rates for burglary declined 63% between 1980 and 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the juvenile proportion of all arrests for drug abuse violations increased from 8% to 13%.
- Juvenile arrests for curfew and loitering violations increased 81% between 1991 and 2000. In 2000, 28% of curfew arrests involved juveniles under age 15 and 31% involved females.
- In 2000, 59% of arrests for running away from home involved females and 39% involved juveniles under age 15.
- Arrests of juveniles accounted for 12% of all violent crimes cleared by arrest in 2000—specifically, 5% of murders, 12% of forcible rapes, 16% of robberies, and 12% of aggravated assaults.

* Throughout this Bulletin, persons under age 18 are referred to as juveniles. See Notes on page 12.

A Message From OJJDP

Juvenile violent crime arrests, which increased through the mid-1980s and early 1990s, have maintained their steady decline for the sixth consecutive year.

The juvenile arrest rate for violent crime in 2000 was 41% below its peak in 1994, reaching its lowest level in 14 years. The juvenile arrest rate for murder dropped 74% from its peak in 1993 to its lowest level since the 1960s. Indeed, the number of juvenile arrests in each of the categories tracked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in its Violent Crime Index (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) has declined once again.

Such positive developments, however, should not be a cause for complacency nor lead us to falter in our commitment to combat juvenile violent crime. In particular, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to reduce recidivism by ensuring that serious and violent juvenile offenders who have been released from correctional facilities are able to make a successful reentry into their communities.

Juvenile Arrests 2000 provides a summary and an analysis of national and State juvenile arrest data presented in the FBI report *Crime in the United States 2000*. We hope that the detailed information this Bulletin provides will help us to sustain the significant progress we have made in reducing juvenile violence.

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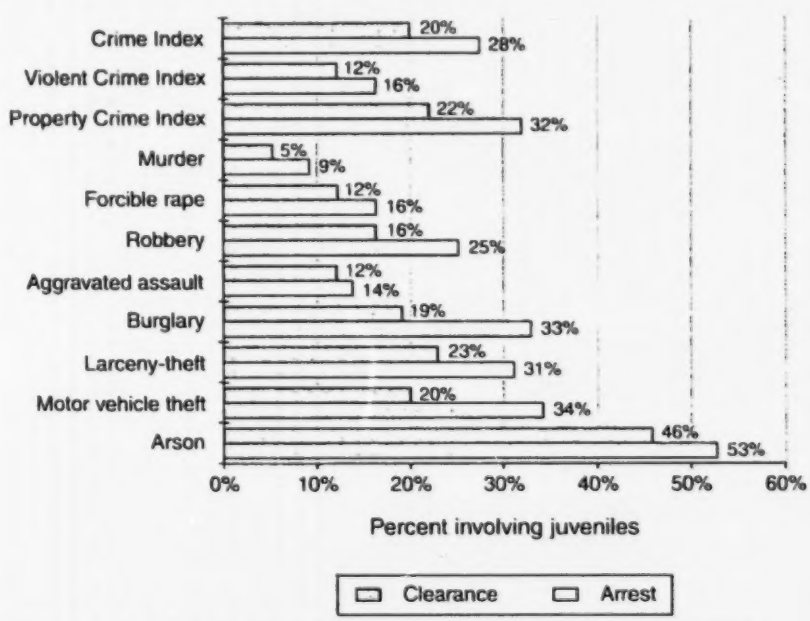
What do arrest statistics count?

To interpret the material in this Bulletin properly, the reader must have a clear understanding of what these statistics count. The arrest statistics report the number of arrests made by law enforcement agencies in a particular year—not the number of individuals arrested, nor the number of crimes committed. The number of arrests is not equivalent to the number of people arrested because an unknown number of individuals are arrested more than once in the year. Nor do arrest statistics represent counts of crimes committed by arrested individuals because a series of crimes committed by one individual may culminate in a single arrest, or a single crime may result in the arrest of more than one person. This latter situation, where many arrests result from one crime, is relatively common in juvenile law-violating behavior because juveniles are more likely than adults to commit crimes in groups. This is the primary reason why arrest statistics should not be used to indicate the relative proportion of crime committed by juveniles and adults. Arrest statistics are most appropriately a measure of flow into the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Arrest statistics also have limitations for measuring the volume of arrests for a particular offense. Under the UCR Program, the FBI requires law enforcement agencies to classify an arrest by the most serious offense charged in that arrest. For example, the arrest of a youth charged with aggravated assault and possession of a controlled substance would be reported to the FBI as an arrest for aggravated assault. Therefore, when arrest statistics show that law enforcement agencies made an estimated 203,900 arrests of young people for drug abuse violations in 2000, it means that a drug abuse violation was the most serious charge in these 203,900 arrests. An unknown number of additional arrests in 2000 included a drug charge as a lesser offense.

The juvenile proportion of arrests exceeded the juvenile proportion of crimes cleared by arrest in each offense category, reflecting the fact that juveniles are more likely to commit crimes in groups and are more likely to be arrested than are adults



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2000* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2001), tables 28 and 38.

What do clearance statistics count?

Clearance statistics measure the proportion of reported crimes resolved by an arrest or other, exceptional means (e.g., death of the offender, unwillingness of the victim to cooperate). A single arrest may result in many clearances. For example, 1 arrest could clear 40 burglaries if the person was charged with committing all 40 of these crimes. Or multiple arrests may result in a single clearance if the crime was committed by a group of offenders. For those interested in juvenile justice issues, the FBI also reports information on the proportion of clearances attributed to the arrest of persons under age 18. This statistic is a better indicator of the proportion of crime committed by this age group than is the arrest proportion, although some concerns exist that even the clearance statistic overestimates the juvenile proportion of crimes.

For example, the FBI reports that persons under age 18 accounted for 25% of all robbery arrests but only 16% of all robberies cleared in 2000. If it can be assumed that offender characteristics of cleared robberies are similar to those of robberies that were not cleared, then it would be appropriate to conclude that persons under age 18 were responsible for 16% of all robberies in 2000. However, the offender characteristics of cleared and noncleared robberies may differ for a number of reasons. If, for example, juvenile robbers were more easily apprehended than adult robbers, the proportion of robberies cleared by the arrest of persons under age 18 would overestimate the juvenile responsibility for all robberies. To add to the difficulty in interpreting clearance statistics, the FBI's reporting guidelines require the clearance to be tied to the oldest offender in the group if more than one person is arrested for a crime.

In summary, while the interpretation of reported clearance proportions is not straightforward, these data are the closest measure generally available of the proportion of crime known to law enforcement that is attributed to persons under age 18.

The murder rate in 2000 was the lowest since 1965

Each *Crime in the United States* report presents estimates of the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. A large portion of most crimes are never reported to law enforcement. Murder, however, is one crime that is nearly always reported. Therefore, murder is the crime for which the FBI data are most complete and most valid.

There were an estimated 15,517 murders reported to law enforcement agencies in 2000, a slight decline from 1999. This estimate means that there were 5.5 murders for every 100,000 U.S. residents in 2000. One would have to go back to 1969 to find a lower annual number of murder victims and to 1965 to find a lower annual murder rate. Between 1960 and 2000, the number of murders peaked in 1993 (24,526 murders, yielding a murder rate of 9.5), and the murder rate was at its highest level in 1980 (23,040 murders, yielding a murder rate of 10.2).

Ninety percent of murder victims in 2000 (or about 13,900 victims) were 18 years of age or older. The other nearly 1,600 murder victims were under the age of 18. This figure is substantially less than that of the peak year of 1993, when almost 2,900 juveniles were murdered. The last year in which fewer than 1,600 juveniles were murdered was 1985.

Of all juveniles murdered in 2000, about 600 (or 38%) were under age 5. More than half (56%) of these murdered children were male, and 55% were white. About half (51%) of murdered juveniles were ages 13 to 17. Forty-seven percent of these murdered teenagers were white, and 20% were female.

In 2000, 70% of all murder victims were killed with a firearm. Adults were more likely to be killed with a firearm (72%) than were juveniles (52%). However, the involvement of a firearm depended greatly on the age of the juvenile victim. Whereas 18% of murdered juveniles under age 13 were killed with a firearm in 2000, 81% of murdered juveniles age 13 or older were killed with a firearm. The most common method of murdering children under the age of 5 was by physical assault; in 61% of such murders, the offenders' only weapons were their hands and/or feet.

The number of juvenile arrests in 2000—2.4 million—was 5% below the 1999 level and 15% below the 1996 level

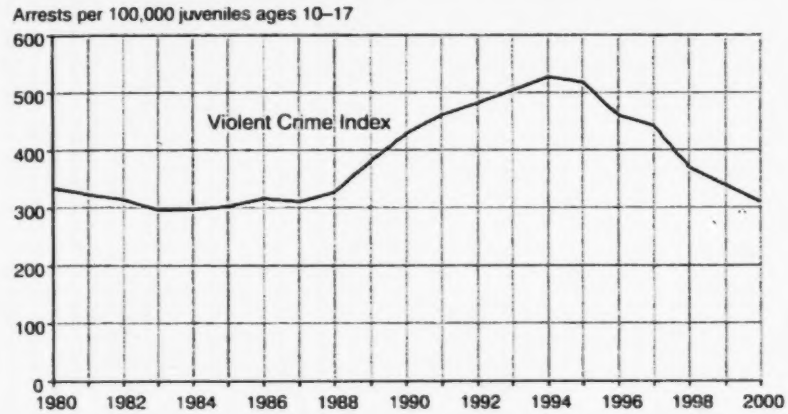
Most Serious Offense	2000 Estimated Number of Juvenile Arrests	Percent of Total Juvenile Arrests		Percent Change		
		Female	Under Age 15	1991–2000	1996–2000	1999–2000
Total	**2,369,400**	**28%**	**32%**	**3%**	**–15%**	**–5%**
Crime Index total	617,600	28	38	–28	–27	–5
Violent Crime Index	98,900	18	33	–17	–23	–4
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	1,200	11	13	–65	–55	–13
Forcible rape	4,500	1	39	–26	–17	–5
Robbery	26,800	9	27	–29	–38	–5
Aggravated assault	66,300	23	36	–7	–14	–4
Property Crime Index	518,800	30	39	–30	–28	–5
Burglary	95,800	12	39	–38	–30	–5
Larceny-theft	363,500	37	40	–24	–27	–6
Motor vehicle theft	50,800	17	26	–51	–34	–3
Arson	8,700	12	65	–7	–17	–7
Nonindex						
Other assaults	236,800	31	43	37	–1	0
Forgery and counterfeiting	6,400	34	12	–20	–24	–7
Fraud	10,700	32	18	–3	–15	–5
Embezzlement	2,000	47	6	132	48	11
Stolen property (buying, receiving, possessing)	27,700	16	29	–40	–33	–1
Vandalism	114,100	12	44	–21	–19	–4
Weapons (carrying, possessing, etc.)	37,600	10	33	–26	–28	–10
Prostitution and commercialized vice	1,300	55	13	–13	–4	–3
Sex offense (except forcible rape and prostitution)	17,400	7	52	–4	8	5
Drug abuse violations	203,900	15	17	145	–4	0
Gambling	1,500	4	18	–27	–30	–22
Offenses against the family and children	9,400	37	38	92	–8	2
Driving under the influence	21,000	17	3	14	13	–3
Liquor law violations	159,400	31	10	20	4	–6
Drunkenness	21,700	20	13	–3	–19	–3
Disorderly conduct	165,700	28	38	33	–9	–8
Vagrancy	3,000	23	28	–33	–7	27
All other offenses (except traffic)	414,200	26	28	35	–5	–5
Suspicion	1,200	22	23	–76	–53	–29
Curfew and loitering	154,700	31	28	81	–16	–11
Runaways	142,000	59	39	–18	–29	–6

- In 2000, there were an estimated 1,200 juvenile arrests for murder. Between 1996 and 2000, juvenile arrests for murder fell 55%.
- Females accounted for 23% of juvenile arrests for aggravated assault and 31% of juvenile arrests for other assaults (i.e., simple assaults and intimidations) in 2000. Females were involved in 59% of all arrests for running away from home and 31% of arrests for curfew and loitering law violations.
- Between 1991 and 2000, there were substantial declines in juvenile arrests for murder (65%), motor vehicle theft (51%), and burglary (38%) and major increases in juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations (145%) and curfew and loitering law violations (81%).

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2000* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2001), tables 29, 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40. Arrest estimates were developed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

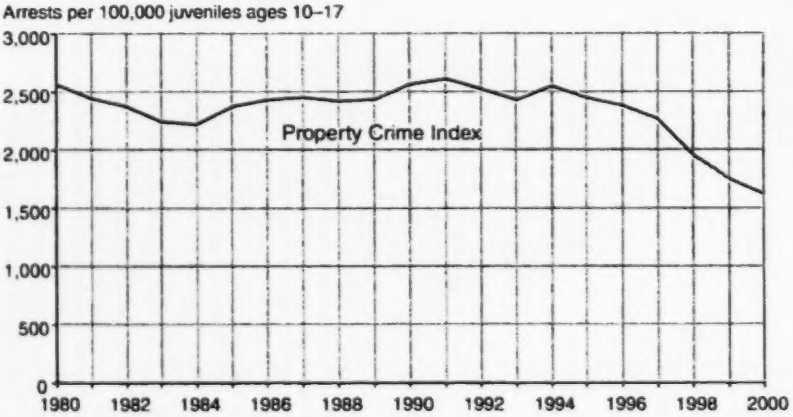
The juvenile Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2000 was at its lowest level since 1985—41% below the peak year of 1994



◇ All the growth in the juvenile violent crime arrest rate that began in the latter part of the 1980s was erased by 2000.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

After years of relative stability, the juvenile arrest rate for Property Crime Index offenses fell 37% between 1994 and 2000



◇ The relatively stable juvenile arrest rate trend between 1980 and 1997 for Property Crime Index offenses stands in stark contrast to the Violent Crime Index arrest rate trend.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

Juvenile arrests for violence in 2000 were the lowest since 1988

The FBI assesses trends in the volume of violent crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes—murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—together form the Violent Crime Index.

After years of relative stability in the number of juvenile Violent Crime Index arrests, the increase in these arrests between 1988 and 1994 focused national attention on the problem of juvenile violence. After peaking in 1994, these arrests dropped each year from 1995 through 2000. For all Violent Crime Index offenses combined, the number of juvenile arrests in 2000 was the lowest since 1988. Looking more closely, the number of juvenile robbery arrests in 2000 was lower than in any year since 1990. However, arrests in each of the other three violent crime categories (murder, forcible rape, and aggravated assault) were lower than in any year since at least the early 1970s.

Between 1991 and 2000, the decline in the number of violent crime arrests was greater for juveniles than adults:

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Arrests 1991–2000	
	Juvenile	Adult
Violent Crime Index	–17%	–10%
Murder	–65	–37
Forcible rape	–26	–30
Robbery	–29	–32
Aggravated assault	–7	–1

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2000*, table 32.

Few juveniles were arrested for violent crime

There were 309 arrests for Violent Crime Index offenses for every 100,000 youth between 10 and 17 years of age. If each of these arrests involved a different juvenile (which is unlikely), then no more than 1 in every 320 persons ages 10 through 17 was arrested for a Violent Crime Index offense in 2000. This means that about one-third of 1% of juveniles ages 10–17 were arrested for a violent crime in 2000.

Juvenile arrests for property crimes in 2000 were the lowest in at least three decades

As with violent crime, the FBI assesses trends in the volume of property crimes by monitoring four offenses that are consistently reported by law enforcement agencies nationwide and are pervasive in all geographical areas of the country. These four crimes, which form the Property Crime Index, are burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

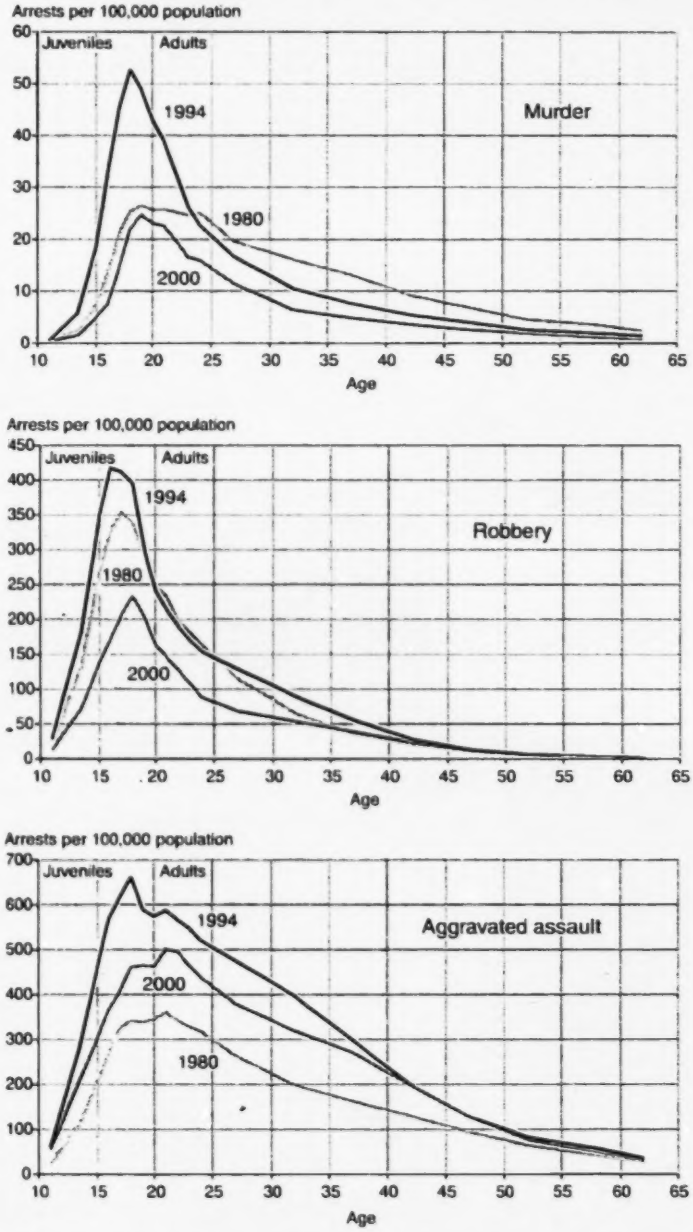
For the period from 1988 through 1994, during which juvenile violent crime arrests increased substantially, juvenile property crime arrest rates remained relatively constant. After this long period of relative stability, juvenile property crime arrests began to fall. Between 1994 and 2000, the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest rate dropped 37%, to its lowest level since at least the 1960s. Specifically, juvenile burglary arrest rates declined throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the juvenile larceny-theft arrest rate was at its lowest level in 20 years, and juvenile motor vehicle theft and arson arrest rates were near their 20-year lows.

Most arrested juveniles were referred to court

In most States, some persons under age 18 are, due to their age or by statutory exclusion, under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. For arrested persons under age 18 *and* under the original jurisdiction of their State's juvenile justice system, the FBI's UCR Program monitors what happens as a result of the arrest. This is the only instance in the UCR Program in which the statistics on arrests coincide with State variations in the legal definition of a juvenile.

In 2000, 20% of arrests involving youth eligible in their State for processing in the juvenile justice system were handled within law enforcement agencies, 71% were referred to juvenile court, and 7% were referred directly to criminal court. The others were referred to a welfare agency or to another police agency. The proportion of arrests sent to juvenile court has increased gradually from 1990 to 2000 (64% to 71%). In 2000, the proportion of juvenile arrests sent to juvenile court was similar in cities (70%), suburban areas (70%), and rural counties (71%).

The increases in robbery and murder arrest rates between 1980 and 1994 were a juvenile and young adult phenomenon, while increases in aggravated assault arrest rates were common across all age groups

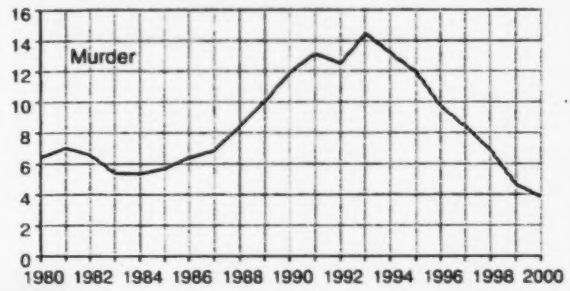


◇ By 2000, murder and robbery arrest rates for all age groups had fallen below their 1980 levels, while aggravated assault arrest rates were still higher than the 1980 rates for all age groups.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

Among the four Violent Crime Index offenses, only aggravated assault had a juvenile arrest rate in 2000 that was not at its lowest level in two decades

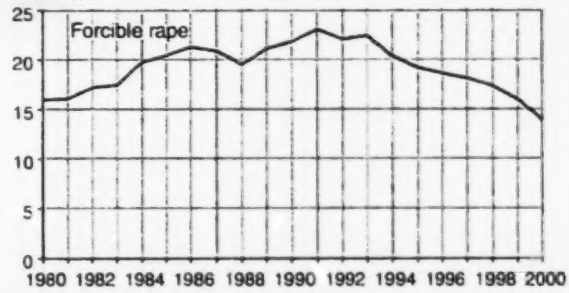
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Murder

- The juvenile arrest rate for murder peaked in 1993. In that year, there were about 3,800 arrests of persons under age 18 for murder.
- In the 7 years prior to this peak, the juvenile arrest rate for murder more than doubled.
- In the 7 years following the peak, the juvenile arrest rate for murder fell 74%, dropping to its lowest level in more than two decades and erasing all of the earlier growth.

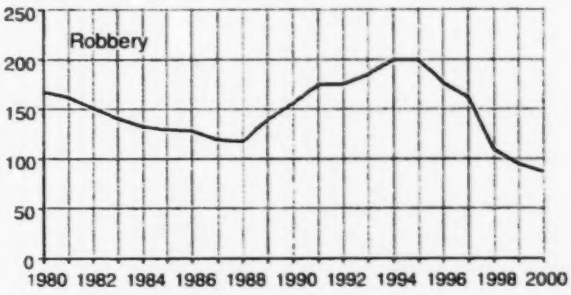
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Forcible Rape

- The juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape did not vary as much as the rates for the other violent crimes over the period of 1980 to 2000, although it did follow the general pattern of growth and decline over the period.
- The juvenile arrest rate for forcible rape increased 44% between 1980 and 1991 and then fell; by 2000, it was 13% less than the 1980 rate, at its lowest level in at least two decades.

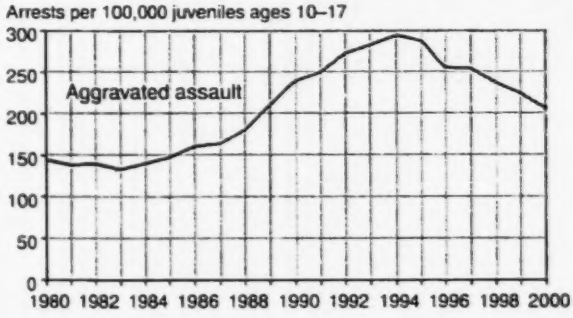
Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Robbery

- The juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined during much of the 1980s, falling 30% between 1980 and 1988.
- The juvenile arrest rate for robbery increased 70% between the low year of 1988 and the peak years of 1994 and 1995, to a level 19% more than the 1980 rate.
- Between the peak years and 2000, the juvenile arrest rate for robbery declined substantially (57%), falling to its lowest level in two decades.

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



Aggravated Assault

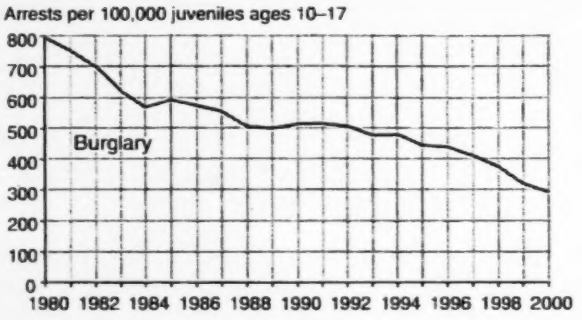
- The juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault doubled between 1980 and 1994. Its increase between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s generally paralleled the increases for murder and robbery.
- Unlike the juvenile arrest rate trends for murder and robbery, however, the decline in the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault between 1994 and 2000 did not erase the increase that began in the mid-1980s. While the juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault fell 30% between 1994 and 2000, the 2000 rate was still 42% more than the 1980 level.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

Juvenile arrest rate trends for the four Property Crime Index offenses show very different patterns over the 1980–2000 period

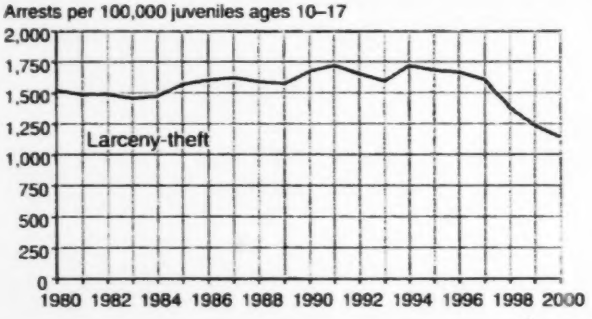
Burglary

- Unlike the juvenile arrest rates for any of the other Index offenses, the rate for burglary declined consistently and substantially between 1980 and 2000. Over this period, the burglary arrest rate was cut by nearly two-thirds (63%).
- In 1980, there were an estimated 230,500 juvenile arrests for burglary; by 2000, this figure had fallen to 95,800.
- Between 1991 and 2000, the number of arrests for burglary declined substantially for both juveniles and adults (38% and 36%, respectively).



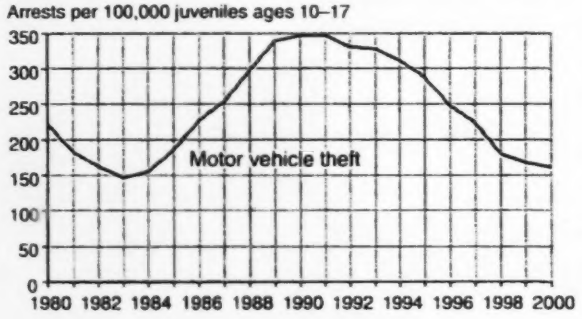
Larceny-Theft

- The relatively large volume of larceny-theft arrests ensures that the Property Crime Index arrest trends will reflect the larceny-theft trends. Therefore, it should be recognized that the juvenile Property Crime Index arrest trends may not (and in this period did not) reflect the juvenile arrest trends for the other crimes in the Index.
- The juvenile arrest rate for larceny-theft remained relatively constant between 1980 and 1997, then fell by almost one-third (29%) in the brief period between 1997 and 2000.



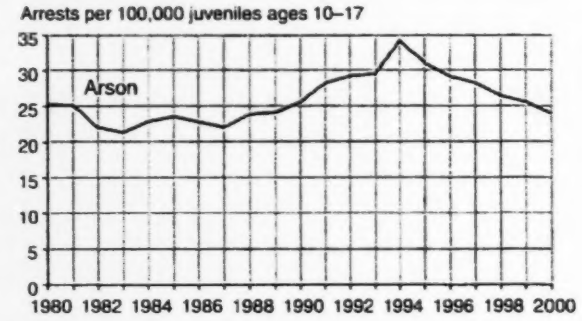
Motor Vehicle Theft

- After falling between 1980 and 1983, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft soared, increasing nearly 138% between 1983 and 1990.
- After the 1990 peak, the juvenile arrest rate for motor vehicle theft declined both consistently and substantially, so that by 2000 the rate was just 10% above its lowest level of 1983 and 54% below its 1990 peak.
- Between 1991 and 2000, the number of arrests for motor vehicle theft declined 51% for juveniles and 23% for adults.



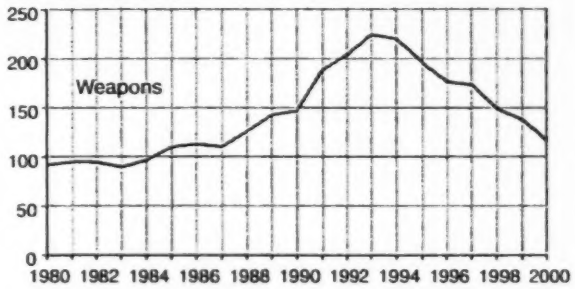
Arson

- After being relatively stable for most of the 1980s, the juvenile arson arrest rate grew 56% between 1987 and 1994. The rate then declined each year between 1994 and 2000, falling 30% from the 1994 peak and returning to the level of 1988.
- With the exception of running away from home and curfew and loitering law violations (crimes for which only juveniles can be arrested), arson is the offense with the greatest proportion of juvenile arrests. In the 1980s, an annual average of 41% of all arson arrests involved juveniles. In the 1990s, the percentage grew to 50%; in 2000, it was 53%.



Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

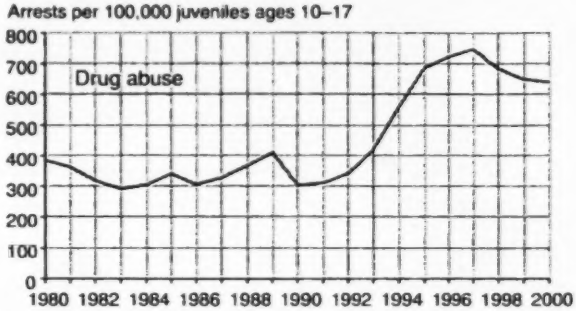
Trends in juvenile arrest rates for weapons law violations and for murder were similar between 1980 and 2000



- The juvenile arrest rates for weapons law violations and for murder more than doubled between 1987 and the peak year of 1993.
- After 1993, both rates fell. The juvenile arrest rate for murder fell 74% between 1993 and 2000. The arrest rate for weapons law violations was cut in half, falling 48% and returning to the 1987 level.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

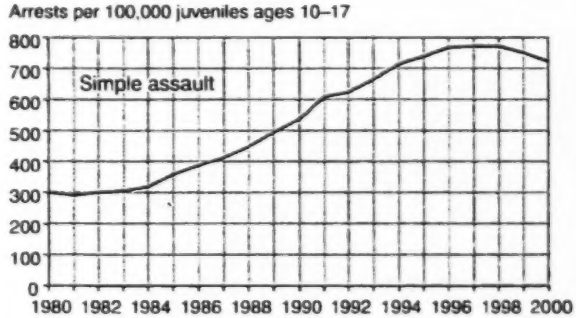
The juvenile arrest rate for drug abuse violations soared in the mid-1990s



- Between 1980 and 1993, the juvenile arrest rate remained within a limited range. Between 1993 and 1997, however, the rate grew 78%. By 2000, the rate had fallen somewhat (14%) from its 1997 high.
- During the period from 1991 to 2000, juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations increased 145%, while adult arrests grew 42%.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

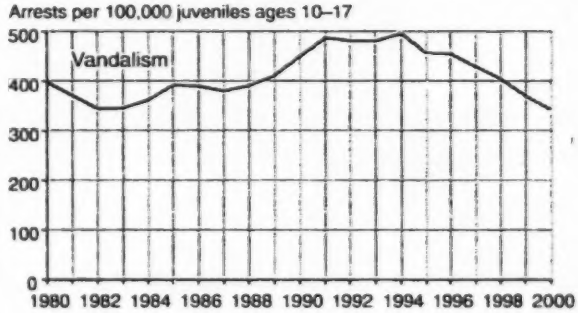
Unlike juvenile arrest rates for other violent crimes, the rate for simple assault did not decline substantially in the latter part of the 1990s



- The juvenile arrest rate for simple assault increased substantially between the early 1980s and the late 1990s—more than 150% between 1983 and 1997.
- The rate fell slightly (6%) between 1997 and 2000, remaining in 2000 near its historically high levels.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

The juvenile arrest rate for vandalism in 2000 was at its lowest level in two decades



- The juvenile arrest rate for vandalism rose 27% between 1988 and 1994, its peak year in the 1980–2000 period.
- Between 1994 and 2000, the rate declined 31%, erasing all of the earlier growth.

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

In 2000, 28% of juvenile arrests were arrests of females

Law enforcement agencies made 655,700 arrests of females under age 18 in 2000. Between 1991 and 2000, arrests of juvenile females generally increased more (or decreased less) than male arrests in most offense categories.

Most Serious Offense	Percent Change in Juvenile Arrests 1991–2000	
	Female	Male
Robbery	–20%	–30%
Aggravated assault	44	–16
Burglary	–15	–40
Larceny-theft	–2	–32
Motor vehicle theft	–28	–54
Simple assault	78	24
Vandalism	18	–25
Weapons	18	–29
Drug abuse violations	220	135
Liquor law violations	38	13
Curfew and loitering	111	70
Runaways	–16	–20

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2000,* table 33.

Females were a larger proportion of juvenile arrests in early teens

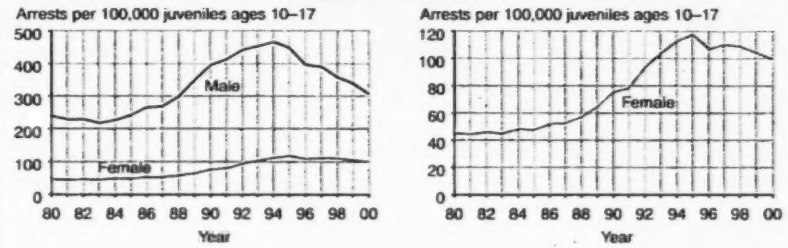
In 2000, girls were involved in one-third of all arrests of youth ages 13 to 15, compared with one-quarter of arrests of younger and older juveniles. This general pattern is found in some specific offense categories, whereas others show a decreasing female proportion of arrests with age.

Most Serious Offense	Female Percent of Arrests in 2000		
	Age <13	Age 13–15	Age 16–17
All offenses	25%	32%	25%
Aggravated assault	19	26	22
Simple assault	24	34	30
Burglary	13	13	10
Larceny-theft	31	39	37
Weapons	13	13	7
Vandalism	12	13	12
Drug abuse	21	17	13
Disorderly conduct	26	33	24
Runaways	48	62	56

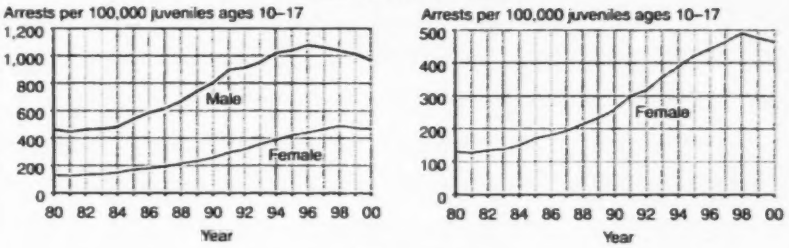
Data source: *Crime in the United States 2000,* tables 39 and 40.

Between 1980 and 2000, juvenile arrest rates increased proportionately more for females than for males, especially for violent crimes

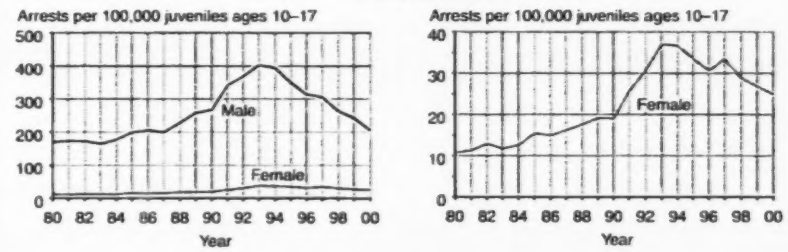
Aggravated assault



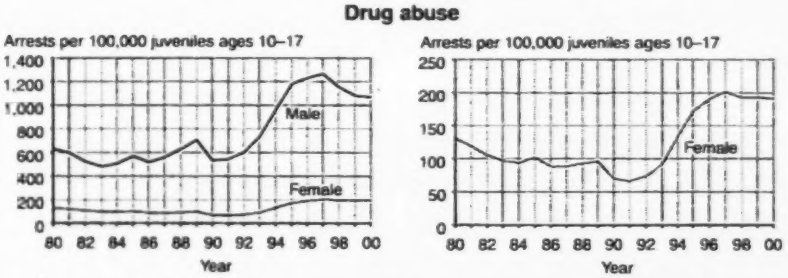
Other (simple) assault



Weapons



Drug abuse



- Between 1980 and 2000, the arrest rate for all offenses increased 35% for juvenile females and declined 11% for juvenile males.
- The change in the female juvenile arrest rate between 1980 and 2000 was greater than the change in the male rate for aggravated assault (121% vs. 28%), simple assault (257% vs. 109%), and weapons law violations (134% vs. 20%).
- In some offense categories, the male arrest rate increased more than the female rate (e.g., for drug abuse violations, it was 70% vs. 47%, respectively).

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. *[See data source note on page 12 for detail.]*

Juvenile arrests disproportionately involved minorities

The racial composition of the juvenile population in 2000 was 79% white, 16% black, 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian. Most Hispanics (an ethnic designation, not a race) were classified as white. In contrast to their representation in the population, black youth were overrepresented in juvenile arrests for violent crimes, and, to a lesser extent, property crimes. Of all juvenile arrests for violent crimes, 55% involved white youth, 42% involved black youth, 2% involved Asian youth, and 1% involved American Indian youth. For property crime arrests, the proportions were 69% white youth, 27% black youth, 2% Asian youth, and 1% American Indian youth.

Most Serious Offense	Black Proportion of Juvenile Arrests in 2000
Murder	50%
Forcible rape	35
Robbery	56
Aggravated assault	37
Burglary	25
Larceny-theft	26
Motor vehicle theft	41
Weapons	31
Drug abuse violations	28
Curfew and loitering	25
Runaways	18

Data source: *Crime in the United States 2000*, table 43.

Converting arrest counts to arrest rates (i.e., arrests/100,000 juveniles in the racial group), the Violent Crime Index arrest rate in 2000 for black juveniles (555) was nearly 4 times the rate for American Indian juveniles (151) and white juveniles (146), and 7 times the rate for Asian juveniles (75). For Property Crime Index arrests, the rate for black juveniles (1,885) was two-thirds greater than the rate for American Indian juveniles (1,149), about double the rate for white juveniles (958), and about 4 times the rate for Asian juveniles (512).

The juvenile contribution to crime has declined

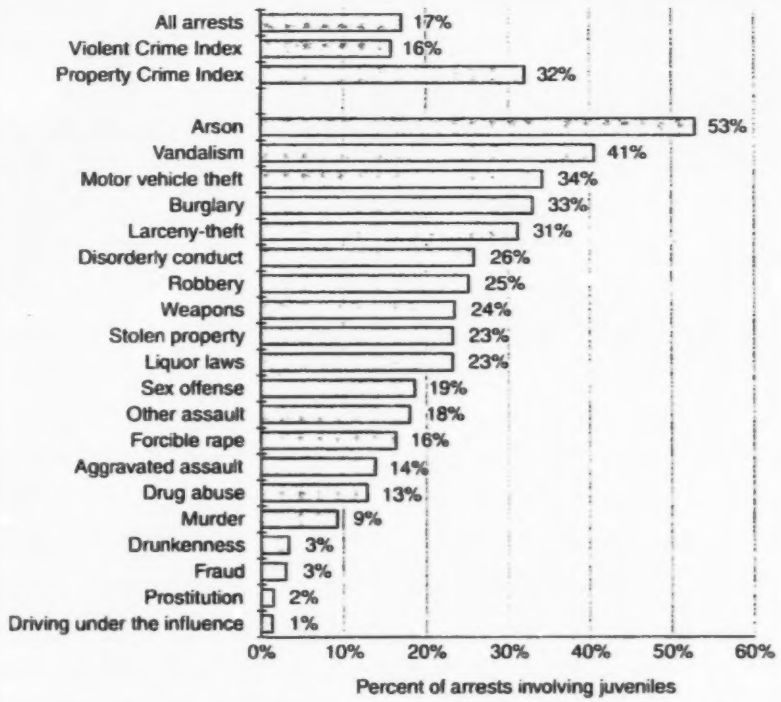
The relative responsibility of juveniles and adults for crime is hard to determine. Research has shown that crimes committed by juveniles are more likely to be cleared by law enforcement than are crimes committed by adults. Therefore, drawing a picture of crime from law enforcement records is likely to give a high estimate of the juvenile responsibility for crime.

The clearance data in the *Crime in the United States* series show that the proportion of violent crimes law enforcement attributed to juveniles has declined in recent years. The proportion of violent crimes cleared by juvenile arrests grew from about 9% in the late 1980s to 14% in 1994 and then declined to 12% in 2000.

In the period since 1980, the proportion of murders cleared by juvenile arrests peaked in 1994 at 10% then dropped to 5% in 2000—the lowest level since 1987 but still more than the levels of the mid-1980s.

The juvenile proportion of cleared forcible rapes peaked in 1995 (15%) and then fell, with the 2000 proportion (12%) near the lowest level in the decade but still more than the levels of the late 1980s (9%). The juvenile proportion of robbery clearances also peaked in 1995 (20%); it fell substantially by 2000 (16%) but was still more than the levels of the late 1980s (10%). The juvenile proportion of aggravated assault clearances in 2000 (12%) was less than its peak in 1994 (13%) but still more than the levels of the late 1980s (8%). The proportion of Property Crime Index offenses cleared by juvenile arrests in 2000 (22%) was less than the average of the 1980s and 1990s.

In 2000, juveniles were involved in about 1 in 11 arrests for murder, 1 in 8 arrests for a drug abuse violation, and 1 in 3 arrests for burglary or motor vehicle theft



Data source: *Crime in the United States 2000* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2001), table 38.

State variations in juvenile arrest rates may reflect differences in juvenile law-violating behavior, police behavior, and/or community standards

State	Reporting Coverage	2000 Juvenile Arrest Rate* Violent Crime Index	Property Crime Index	Drug Abuse	Weapons
United States	72%†	330	1,686	649	116
Alabama	71	149	822	264	59
Alaska	91	243	2,565	517	101
Arizona	91	294	2,185	894	81
Arkansas	86	183	1,477	321	85
California	100	405	1,411	583	160
Colorado	76	238	2,628	805	188
Connecticut	76	279	1,555	671	106
Delaware	50	1,053	3,571	1,387	262
District of Columbia	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Florida	98	612	2,443	884	109
Georgia	48	272	1,381	490	115
Hawaii	88	247	1,744	422	45
Idaho	99	176	2,461	483	132
Illinois	23	939	2,763	2,868	427
Indiana	64	350	1,722	523	44
Iowa	88	244	1,943	413	47
Kansas	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kentucky	6	206	1,984	623	73
Louisiana	69	408	1,810	568	89
Maine	98	121	1,907	619	28
Maryland	84	528	1,904	1,281	188
Massachusetts	76	449	686	419	39
Michigan	85	149	1,092	342	56
Minnesota	94	283	2,174	889	153
Mississippi	50	147	1,945	617	93
Missouri	52%	329	2,229	789	125
Montana	38	379	1,883	333	58
Nebraska	91	118	2,483	719	106
Nevada	98	254	2,409	777	191
New Hampshire	59	96	1,022	690	34
New Jersey	97	360	1,269	876	172
New Mexico	63	281	1,467	581	143
New York	35	315	1,437	635	96
North Carolina	79	317	1,697	507	159
North Dakota	89	32	2,220	354	40
Ohio	52	218	1,488	422	86
Oklahoma	100	248	1,675	500	90
Oregon	81	201	2,503	653	94
Pennsylvania	75	462	1,451	557	100
Rhode Island	95	274	1,430	641	108
South Carolina	28	322	1,700	682	118
South Dakota	79	138	2,220	675	93
Tennessee	69	176	1,044	423	65
Texas	96	215	1,553	601	69
Utah	70	213	2,888	580	143
Vermont	81	57	926	312	15
Virginia	73	158	1,006	398	102
Washington	69	328	2,933	598	153
West Virginia	49	85	884	185	27
Wisconsin	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wyoming	100	159	1,895	765	88

* Throughout this Bulletin, juvenile arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of arrests of persons ages 10–17 by the number of persons ages 10–17 in the population. In this table only, arrest rate is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10–17. Juvenile arrests (arrests of youth under age 18) reported at the State level in *Crime in the United States* cannot be disaggregated into more detailed age categories so that the arrest of persons under age 10 can be excluded in the rate calculation. Therefore, there is a slight inconsistency in this table between the age range for the arrests (birth through age 17) and the age range for the population (ages 10–17) that are the basis of a State's juvenile arrest rates. This inconsistency is slight because just 2% of all juvenile arrests involved youth under age 10. This inconsistency is preferable to the distortion of arrest rates that would be introduced were the population base for the arrest rate to incorporate the large volume of children under age 10 in a State's population.

† The reporting coverage for the total United States in this table (72%) includes all States reporting arrests of persons under age 18. This is greater than the coverage in the rest of the Bulletin (65%) because Florida was able to provide arrest counts of persons under age 18 but was not able to provide the age detail required to support most other presentations in *Crime in the United States 2000*.

NA = *Crime in the United States 2000* reported no arrest counts for this State.

Interpretation cautions: Arrest rates are calculated by dividing the number of youth arrests made in the year by the number of youth living in reporting jurisdictions. While juvenile arrest rates in part reflect juvenile behavior, many other factors can affect the size of these rates. For example, jurisdictions that arrest a relatively large number of nonresident juveniles would have higher arrest rates than jurisdictions where resident youth behave in an identical manner. Therefore, jurisdictions that are vacation destinations or regional centers for economic activity may have arrest rates that reflect more than the behavior of their resident youth. Other factors that influence the magnitude of arrest rates in a given area include the attitudes of its citizens toward crime, the policies of the jurisdiction's law enforcement agencies, and the policies of other components of the justice system. **Consequently, comparisons of juvenile arrest rates across States, while informative, should be made with caution.** In most States, not all law enforcement agencies report their arrest data to the FBI. Rates for these States are necessarily based on partial information. If the reporting law enforcement agencies in these States are not representative of the entire State, then the rates will be biased. **Therefore, reported arrest rates for States with less than complete reporting coverage may not be accurate.**

Data source: Analysis of arrest data from the FBI's *Crime in the United States 2000* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2001), tables 5 and 69, and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census' *Census 2000 Summary File 1*, table P14, Sex by Age for the Population Under 20 Years [Web site data files].

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Notes

In this Bulletin, "juvenile" refers to persons under age 18. This definition is at odds with the statutory age criteria for original juvenile court jurisdiction in delinquency matters in several States. In 10 States, all 17-year-olds are considered adults for purposes of criminal prosecution; in 3 States, all 16- and 17-year-olds are considered adults.

FBI arrest data in this Bulletin are counts of arrests detailed by age of arrestee and offense categories from all law enforcement agencies that reported complete data for the calendar year. The proportion of the U.S. population covered by these reporting agencies ranged from 63% to 94% between 1980 and 2000, with the 2000 coverage being 65%.

Estimates of the number of persons in each age group in the reporting agencies' resident populations assume that the resident population age profiles are similar to the Nation's. Reporting agencies' total populations were multiplied by the U.S. Bureau of the Census' most current estimate of the proportion of the U.S. population for each age group.

Data source note

Analysis of arrest data from unpublished FBI reports for 1980 through 1997 and from *Crime in the United States* reports for 1998, 1999, and 2000 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1999, 2000, and 2001, respectively); population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1980 to 1999 (With Short-term Projection to Dates in 2000)* [machine-readable data files available online, released April 11, 2000].

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